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Abstract

Hujr b. Umm Qatam

A Historical Reading in the Poetry of Abid b. al-Abras

This article questions the common belief that Hujr b. Um Qatam, mentioned repeatedly in pre-Islamic poems, mainly in the poems of the Asadi 'Abid b. al-Abras, was himself the early sixth century king Hujr b. al-Harith b. 'Amr of the Kindite family of Akil al-Murar. After a thorough discussion based on Arabic and non-Arabic sources, the article concludes that (1) Hujr b. Um Qatam was active late in the sixth century A.D., i.e. two or three generations later than generally believed and (2) he was not possibly a member of the Kindite family of Akil al-Murar. Rather, he most probably belonged to a branch of Kinda then residing in Dumat al-Jandal and paying homage to Byzantium; otherwise, he must have been one of the late Ghassanid kings. These findings, moreover, highlight the background of the plainly exaggerated estimates of how long 'Abid lived. All the related accounts stem, as the article shows, from misinterpreting historical references in his poetry.

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(1) Lyall, C.J., *The Diwans of 'Abid Ibn al-Abras, of Asad, and 'Amir Ibn at-Tufail, of 'Amir Ibn Sa'sa'ah*, Brill: Leyden, 1913 (= Lyall).

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(2) Lyall, no. 7.

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"Journal of the Royal ()

"Ancient Arabi poetry as a source of historical information" Asiatic Society"

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(1) Krenkow, F., "Notes on the editions of the Arabic poets 'Abid ibn al-Abras, 'Amir ibn at Tufail, and 'Amr ibn Qami'a published by Sir Charles J. Lyall," *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 1922, pp. 43-48.

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⁽¹⁾(Gabrieli) (Lyall)

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(1) *The Encyclopaedia of Islam*, New ed. 1960-, Leiden and London (= *EI*), v.s. Abid b. al-Abras

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(4) Ramini, Irsan, The Tribe of Tamim and the Origins of the Early Crisis in the Caliphate, PhD. Thesis, Cambridge Univ., 1989, (= Ramini, Origins), p. 39

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(1) Ramini, Origins, p. 37- 38.

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(1) Irfan Shahid, *Byzantium and the Arabs in the sixth century*, Dumbarton Oaks, Research Library and Collection, Washington, D.C (= Shahid), pp. 214-6

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(4) Olinder, G., "The Kings of Kinda," *Lunds UniversitetsArsskrift* 23 (1927), p. 58f.; Shahid, p. 149f.
(5) *El.*, v.s. Imru' al-Kays b. Hudjr.

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Shahid pp. - ()

(2) Kister, M. J., "The Campaign of Huluban: a new light on the expedition of Abraha," *Le Museon (Revue D'etudes Orientals Tijdschrift Voor Orientalisme)*, 78 (1965): 425-436, pp.

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Olinder, G., "Al al-Gawn of the Family of Akil al-Murar," *Le Monde Oriental* 25 (1931), pp. 208- 9

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Trimingham, John S., *Christianity among the Arabs in pre-Islamic times*, London: Longman, 1979
(Trimingham), p. 277.

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(2) Shahid, pp. 550- 1

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(2) Ramini, Tribe, p. 39.

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